Amendments to the Claims:

1 (currently amended):   A method in an operating system for resizing an operating system interface element containing controls that have control definitions, comprising:

receiving a command to resize the interface element;

defining resizable regions of the interface element including determining whether each of the controls within the interface element is resizable; cumulating a total score by adding a value associated with each control in a given column or row contributing its respective value to the total score for the respective column or row, the column or row being designated as resizable based on the total score for the column or row and a minimum height and width is maintained; wherein defining resizable regions of the interface element includes either ignoring a control that is a last control in its row or ignoring a control that is a last control in its column;

determining when there is a special row;

determining when there is a special column;

adjusting the resizable regions in response to the determinations regarding the special row and the special column; and

resizing the interface element by resizing only the resizable regions of the interface element.

2 (original):   The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of defining includes defining guides separating columns and rows of the controls, such that each of the resizable regions is bounded by at least two of the guides.

3 (original):   The method of Claim 2, wherein the guides are defined such that a separation between adjacent ones of the guides is always a minimum magnitude.

4 (original):   The method of Claim 2, wherein defining includes identifying each of the controls as to whether it is vertically or horizontally resizable and designating each of the columns and rows as resizable responsively to the step of identifying.

5 (original):   The method of Claim 1, wherein defining includes identifying each of the controls as to whether it is vertically or horizontally resizable.

6 (original):   The method of Claim 5, wherein defining includes defining guides separating columns and rows of the controls, such that each of the resizable regions is bounded by at least two of the guides.

7 (original):   The method of Claim 6, wherein the interface element is a window.

8 (original):   The method of Claim 2, further comprising the steps of:
designating a row as special when the row contains a set of controls that lies in a predetermined geometric configuration with a predefined range of tolerance;
designating a column as special when the column contains a set of controls that lies in a predetermined geometric configuration with a predefined range of tolerance; and
resizing the interface element while maintaining a fixed geometric distance between the controls of the set after the step of resizing.

9 (original):   The method of Claim 2, wherein defining the resizable regions of the interface element including determining whether each of the controls within the interface element is resizable further comprises determining when a control may be resized that is initially considered non-resizable.

10 (original):   The method of Claim 9, wherein determining when the control may be resized that is initially considered non-resizable further comprises determining when there are no controls that would be impacted by resizing the control.

11 (currently amended):   A computer-readable medium for dynamically resizing a window without altering operating system code, the window containing controls, the controls being defined by properties indicating respective positions of each of the controls within the

window and control-type data indicating respective types of each of the controls stored in a memory, comprising:

receiving a command to resize the window,

identifying for each control whether the control is resizable based on the control type and a position of the control relative to any of the other controls within the window;

responsively to the step of receiving, dividing the window into subareas,

responsively to the step of dividing, dynamically determining whether the subareas are resizable based on the resizability of the controls that are at least partially in the subareas while maintaining any minimum height associated with the controls; wherein the determining whether the subareas are resizable includes either ignoring a control that is a last control in its row or ignoring a control that is a last control in its column; wherein a control is the last control in its column when there are no controls to the right of the control in its column; and wherein a control is the last control in its row when there are no controls below the control in is row; and

resizing the window by resizing the resizable subareas of the window; wherein the resizing is executed independent of ignored controls.

12 (original): The computer-readable medium of Claim 11, wherein dividing the window into subareas, further comprises defining guides separating columns and rows of the controls, such that each of the resizable regions is bounded by at least two of the guides.

13 (original): The computer-readable medium of Claim 12, wherein the guides are defined such that a separation between adjacent ones of the guides is always a minimum magnitude.

14 (original): The computer-readable medium of Claim 12, wherein dividing the window into subareas, further comprises identifying each of the controls as to whether it is vertically or horizontally resizable and designating each of the columns and rows as resizable.

15 (original): The computer-readable medium of Claim 11, wherein identifying for each control whether the control is resizable further comprises identifying each of the controls as to whether it is vertically or horizontally resizable.

16 (original): The computer-readable medium of Claim 15, wherein dividing the window into subareas further comprises defining guides separating columns and rows of the controls, such that each of the resizable regions is bounded by at least two of the guides.

17 (original): The computer-readable medium of Claim 11, further comprising the steps of:

designating a row as special when the row contains a set of controls that lies in a predetermined geometric configuration with a predefined range of tolerance;

designating a column as special when the column contains a set of controls that lies in a predetermined geometric configuration with a predefined range of tolerance; and

resizing the window while maintaining a fixed geometric distance between the controls.

18 (original): The computer-readable medium of Claim 11, wherein identifying for each control whether the control is resizable based on the control type and the position of the control relative to any of the other controls within the window further comprises determining when there are no controls that would be impacted by resizing the control.